What Is Claimed Is:

1. A method of programmatically managing a third-tier application where a first-tier user accesses the third-tier application over a network through a second-tier server, the method comprising the steps of:

   a. initiating an application managing program in a third-tier process space;

   b. launching the third-tier application in the third-tier process space;

   c. passing user interface and user commands between the third-tier application with a first-tier computer via the second-tier server;

   d. transmitting a command from the second-tier server to the application managing program in the third-tier processing space;

   e. the application managing program controlling the third-tier application in accordance with the command received from the second-tier server.

2. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of loading a requested document into the third-tier application.

3. The method of claim 2, wherein the application managing program directs the third-tier application to load the requested document.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein the application managing program consults a data store for data about the third-tier application, the data including information on the process to be used to control the third-tier application.

5. The method of claim 1, wherein the command is an instruction to load a document into the third-tier application.

6. The method of claim 5, wherein the document is opened as a read-only document.

7. The method of claim 1, wherein the command is an instruction to launch an additional third-tier application.

8. The method of claim 1, wherein the command is an instruction to modify display attributes of the third-tier application.

9. The method of claim 1, wherein the command is an instruction to toggle a run-time attribute of the third-tier application program.

10. The method of claim 9, wherein the run-time attribute is chosen from the set including tracking user edits, showing changes to the document, and highlighting portions of the document.

11. A method of programmatically managing a third-tier application where a first-tier user accesses the third-tier application over a network through a second-tier server, the method comprising the steps of:

   a. initiating an application managing program in a third-tier process space;

   b. launching the third-tier application in the third-tier process space upon the detection of an activation of a hyperlink by a user of a first-tier computer;

   c. passing user interface and user commands between the third-tier application and a thin-client operating on the first-tier computer via the second-tier server;

   d. transmitting a command from the second-tier server to the application managing program in the third-tier processing space;

   e. the application managing program controlling the third-tier application in accordance with the command received from the second-tier server.